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INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0185

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 000607

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/26/2018
TAGS: [AORC](#) [UNSC](#) [UNGA](#) [HO](#)
SUBJECT: HONDURAS DEMARCHED ON 2007 UN VOTING REPORT
REF: STATE 55178

Classified By: Ambassador Charles Ford, reasons 1.4 (b & d)

¶1. (C) On June 23, PolOff delivered reftel demarche to Jose Lorenzana, the Foreign Ministry's Acting Director of Multilateral Affairs. Lorenzana assured PolOff that the MFA wants to support us at UNGA and the UNSC. He added that every request that has come in from us since he began in his current position in January 2007 has received GOH support and reiterated that he looks forward to continuing to support us on UNGA and UNSC resolutions. The two ways he thinks we can help improve voting coincidence are: (1) demarching the MFA on every vote for which we want their support. He pointed out on the report's list of important resolutions that every one for which we demarched him personally, Honduras voted with us. The lack of coincidence was concentrated in the resolutions for which we did not receive demarche taskings; (2) demarching them further in advance of the votes because they need time to go through their channels for approval and communicate instructions to their ambassador to the UN. He indirectly suggested that had we demarched the MFA on all 82 votes in 2007, we would have received a better result, and that the voting record does not reflect a lack of will on the part of Honduras but rather a need for better and earlier communication from us.

¶2. (C) In February 2008, 36 members of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs sent a letter to Honduran President Jose Manuel Zelaya expressing their concern with the voting record. On June 19, Committee Chairman Berman sent a letter to Ambassador Ford requesting that he follow up with President Zelaya since no response was ever received. Chairman Berman's concern was expressed to the MFA.

¶3. (C) Comment: PolOff believes that Lorenzana was sincere in his assessment of the situation and his will to assist. Additionally, it is credible that the MFA in general would be so highly unorganized that at the working level they would need a reminder from us each year of our positions on resolutions and would need to receive it far in advance. Despite this, we believe there is a lack of will at higher levels, especially Honduran Ambassador to the UN Jorge Arturo Reina, who was stripped of his U.S. visa for terrorism. So even if we did demarche the MFA on every important vote well in advance, Reina could easily choose to vote against us. President Zelaya has promised the Ambassador that if Reina proves obstructionist, he will instruct him formally as to the Honduran position. As a test of this commitment, we should follow-up on Lorenzana's suggestion on key votes to see if there really is political will. End comment.
FORD